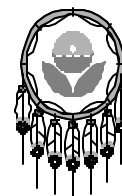


N E W S

On average, each American uses
a b o u t
160 gallons of water each day at
a cost of 27 cents.

L E T T E R

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. IX No. XII
December 1, 1999

Work Shops and Conferences

December 5-9, 1999, Watershed Management to Protect Declining Species, American Water Resources Assoc. Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. For additional information contact Rodney Sakrison, 452/649-4447, or www.awra.org.

February 21-26, 2000, National Association of Native American Studies National Conference 2000, Houston, TX. For conference registration and information contact: Dr. Lemuel Berry, Jr., Executive director, NANAS, Morehead State University, 212 Rader Hall, Morehead Krmyvlu 40351, Ph. 606/783-2650.

October 17-21, 2000, 29th NAAEE Annual Conference, South Padre Island, TX. See article page three.

Rotation Opportunity

When: January 1-June 1, 2000

Where: EPA Washington, DC

Position Description: The EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) coordinates the Agency-wide effort to strengthen public health and environmental protection in Indian country, with a special emphasis on building Tribal capacity to administer their own environmental programs (see <http://www.epa.gov/indian>). We are a small office (about 15 people) with the opportunity to take on a lot of responsibility and gain valuable work experience. We are looking for an intelligent person with good writing skills that has the ability to work independently, as well as in teams. Responsibilities will include acting as liaison to the White House Domestic Policy Council, Working Group on

American Indians and Alaska Natives, coordinator for EPA's "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" training, participating in the team that oversees the General Assistance Program (EPA's largest source of grant money to Tribes for environmental issues), working on the Baseline Assessment Project to establish baseline environmental conditions in Indian country and identify data needs, and liaison with EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. We will design additional projects to meet your interests as best we can. This position is to replace a staff member that is rotating out of the office temporarily, so your home office would have to pay for the rotation.

For more information: Contact Tonya Fish at 202-260-0769 or fish.tonya@epa.gov.

Drinking Water Survey

EPA has launched its second nationwide survey of the infrastructure needs of drinking water systems. The results will show how much money drinking water systems nationwide will have to invest to comply with existing and proposed regulations and replace aging facilities. Congress is scheduled to receive a final report on February 2001,

The survey results will determine allotment of federal funds to Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRFs) that lend money to drinking water systems for infrastructure improvements.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires the EPA to conduct a survey every four years to estimate the capital investments that are needed to protect and provide high-quality drinking water now

and for the next 20 years. States' revolving fund allotments will be in proportion to the infrastructure investment needs of their respective drinking water systems.

E.coli 0157:H7

One of the hundreds of strains of the bacterium Escherichia coli 0157:H7 is an emerging cause of food borne and waterborne illness. Although most strains of E.coli are harmless, this strain produces a powerful toxin and can cause severe illness.

The infection often causes severe bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps; frequently no fever is present. In some people, particularly children under five years of age and the elderly, the infection can also cause a complication called hemolytic uremic syndrome, in which the red blood cells are destroyed and the kidneys fail. Symptoms usually appear within two to four days, but can take up to eight days. Most people recover without antibiotics or other specific treatment in five to ten days.

Antidiarrheal agents, such as Loperamide (Imodium), should also be avoided.

EPA has created an E.coli page on its website, which provides links to other sites with information about the E.coli 0157:h7 bacteria. To obtain more information, visit the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ecoli.html>.

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is published monthly at no charge

To receive a copy call:

AK..Jean.....907/271-6558
ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR..Don.....503/326-5015
WA..Evelyn.....206/553-
4011
Tribal Office.....800/424-
4372
ext. 4011

EPA's Watershed Academy

EPA's Watershed Academy is a focal point in the Office of Water, for providing training and information on implementing watershed approaches to federal, state, tribal and local officials, as well as private practitioners of watershed management. The Academy sponsors its own training courses and develops training materials. It has published a resource guide to the watershed training courses and other educational materials. To obtain a free copy of the booklet, contact National Publications and Information (NCEPI), cite: EPA841-B-98-001 at 513/489-8190 or 800/490-9198.

Incidents Reimbursement

Federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible for reimbursement under EPA's reimbursement program for up to \$25,000, per incident, for costs incurred in performing temporary emergency response measures. Incidents involving releases, or threatened releases, of hazardous substances, releases from transportation accidents, illegally dumped wastes, tire fires and contamination from illegal drug labs are covered under this program. To be reimbursed the Tribe must properly document the costs and show that the Tribe was not responsible for the release. For additional information see website: <http://www.epa.gov/oerrpage/superfund/programs/er/lgr/index.htm>
Region 10 phone contact: Thor Cutler 206/ 553-1673 HQ contact is Lisa Boynton 703/603-9052.

TIO/OSWER

The Technology Innovation Office (TIO/OSWER) is responsible for promoting the development and use of innovative site characterization technologies and soil and groundwater remediation technologies in support of hazardous waste cleanups at Superfund sites, corrective action sites under RCRA, underground storage tank clean-ups and Brownfields. TIO maintains technical literature on the descriptions of various innovative treatment technologies and waste characterization methods that are currently being implemented in the field, including cost and performance data and

the results of field demonstration. TIO can provide assistance to tribal communities/technical organizations interested in the assessment/cleanup phases of waste site activities. Information on EPA's TIO/OSWER can be found on the internet at: <http://www.clu-in.org>. For further information, contact the TIO offices at 703/603-9910 or John Quander at 703/603-7198.

NAAEE

The North American Association for Environmental Education will hold its 29th Annual Conference at South Padre Island, Texas, on October 17 - 21, 2000. The theme for this conference is "Spanning Cultural and Ecological Diversity Through Environmental Education."

The Agency, through the Office of Environmental Education, will have a booth at the conference.

The NAAEE program will have over 300 concurrent sessions, symposia, hands-on sessions, workshops, and interacting discussions.

Tribes in your region may want to make a presentation or otherwise be involved. Please refer to the web site at: www.naaee.org to download the 6-page call for presentation. The deadline for submittals is **January 31, 2000**.

CTSP

Conservation, sustainable development, and environmental justice non-profit organizations seeking to use computer mapping technology can apply now for grants of computer equipment and specialized software. The Conservation Technology Support Program (CTSP) announced the release of guidelines for its 2000 Geographic Information Systems Grants, which will be awarded in April 2000 to approximately 50 groups. Applications are due January 7, 2000.

To receive the guidelines and application, interested conservation groups should visit the CTSP web site at <http://www.ctsp.org>. To be considered, an organization must be U.S.-based and have tax exempt status. Some international groups with U.S. sponsors may also be eligible and should refer to the CTSP guidelines. All groups, be sure to check the news update

link on the CTSP home page to get the latest information on software additions to the grant packages.

The CTSP is focused on helping groups use Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a rapidly growing technology that can better show the location of issues in relation to information about those issues. For example, using GIS, a conservation group could identify the habitat of endangered species and analyze the impact of public land use policies to determine the best course of balancing conservation and development. "GIS is an essential tool for any group working to protect species or places", said Charles Convis, the head of ESRI's Conservation Program. "Providing this tool to non-profits helps level the playing field and leads to better public decisions."

Water Quality Standards

EPA is considering whether to promulgate a national rule containing core water quality standards for all Indian Country waters that do not have EPA-approved Tribal standards and where a Tribe does not intend to pursue adoption of Tribal water quality standards. EPA has consulted with Tribes on this question via meetings of the National Tribal Operations Committee, and meetings held in each EPA Region. EPA Region 10 initially met with Tribes at a Consultation Roundtable in Seattle on June 10. Based on the discussions at that meeting and input from Tribes in other Regions, EPA modified its proposed approach to specifically include options for a Tribe to "opt out" from being included in such a national promulgation. Copies of a discussion paper on the revised approach, including a draft of what core standards might look like, were sent to Tribal leaders in Region 10 at the end of October. On November 3, 1999, EPA Headquarters and Region 10 staff made a presentation on this topic at the 1999 Tribal Leaders Summit, held in Seattle, and listened to Tribal input and responded to questions during several

breakout sessions on the afternoon of the meeting. EPA is consulting with Tribes regarding the following questions:

gShould EPA proceed to put core water quality standards in place within Indian country waters that do not have EPA-approved Tribal standards?

gAre the core standards appropriate as a first phase? **g**What would be reasonable time frames for Tribes to identify their preferences? **g**What should be the next phases of the promulgation? **g**Are the provisions for Tribes to "opt out" of the core standards promulgation appropriate?

gHow would Tribes be involved if EPA moves ahead with the federal core water quality standards in Indian Country?

gWhat are the implications of this approach for Tribal interests (e.g., fiscal and staff resources)?

Further input and discussion is welcome. Comments can be mailed to Fred Leutner, Chief, Water Quality Standards Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Mail Code 4305, Washington, D.C. 20460, or e-mailed to him at leutner.fred@epa.gov. If you did not receive a copy of the fact sheet and draft core standards, they will be available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/ost.

Comments needed by January 15, 2000.

Brownfields

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting application proposals for the National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot program. The Brownfields Assessment Pilots test cleanup and redevelopment planning models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness. It will facilitate coordinated environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. Each award will be up to \$200,000 over two years. An additional \$50,000 may be awarded to an applicant to assess the contamination of a Brownfields site(s) that is or will be used for greenspace purposes. EPA expects to select up to 50 additional national assessment pilots by April 2000. States, cities, towns, counties, and federally recognized

Indian tribes are invited to apply by the deadline, February 16, 2000. Copies of the application guide-lines are available via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

Information on the current Assessment Pilots can be found on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot.htm.general>. Information on the Brownfields Initiative can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Brownfields/>. If you have questions regarding the application, you may call EPA's Superfund Hotline at 800/424-9346, or Susan at 206/553-7299.

BESM Training

The Nation Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC) announced that the popular training program "Basics of Environmental Systems Management" (BESM) is now available on CD-ROM.

"The BESM CD-ROM has the potential to make environmental training hi-tech," said Lynda Kersey, NETCSC training specialist. "It can be used to complement a trainer's guide instruction book, as a self-study tool for those who are unable to attend traditional classroom training, or as a reference source."

Developed originally in 1994 by NETCSC and Tennessee Technological University (TTU), the BESM program provides a basis for understanding the fundamentals of drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, and decision making.

According to Kersey, the CD-ROM version of the program is very user-friendly. It includes Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.01 for Macintosh and Windows computers, as well as simple, straightforward instructions for installing it. After installing Acrobat Reader, the program can be launched by clicking on the "Begin" file.

From the table of contents, users may select topic areas of interest. Each topic area has chapters that introduce basic concepts, discussion questions to promote further thought, review questions to test knowledge, and resources for finding additional information. Users can easily move back and forth between chapters, questions, definitions, and topic areas.

The BESM CD-ROM was prepared by

the Center for the Management, Utilization, and Protection of Water Resources at Tennessee Technological University. Funding for the production of the CD-ROM was provided by EPA Region 4 under a cooperative agreement with TTU.

The CD-ROM (item #TRSWECD36) costs \$2.50, plus shipping and handling charges. To order, call NETCSC at 800/624-8301.

Resource Management for Tribes

Environmental Management

Resources for Indian Tribes is a new document with an accompanying fact sheet which is designed to assist EPA and Tribal environmental managers develop programs by providing information on resources and projects throughout the United States. The document will be updated periodically by EPA. For more information contact Carolyn Young at 202/564-0146 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ccsmd/comptool.html.

Environmental Justice Grants

The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications from eligible candidates under the State and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice.

A maximum of \$100,000 will be awarded to each recipient, contingent upon the availability of funds. The application must be **postmarked no later than Friday, January 28, 2000.**

If you have any questions regarding the grant, please call Mike Letourneau 206/553-1687 or Daniel Gogal, STEJ Grants Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, at 202/564-2576 or 800-962-6215.

Pesticides

EPA has awarded a cooperative agreement to the Native Ecology Initiative for the purpose of organizing the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC). The Council will support the effort of Native American Indian Tribes to establish and maintain existing pesticide programs, raise awareness of

pesticide management issues among tribes, and work with EPA and other federal agencies on national pesticide policies and programs. Issues to be addressed by the TPPC will include EPA's pesticide registration program, training and certification requirements for pesticide applicators, regulations for disposing of pesticides, and the prevention of spray drift and groundwater contamination, among other pesticide issues. Members of the TPPC will initially include representatives from 30 Tribes that actively administer various pesticide programs, and several other tribes with an interest in pesticide issues. For more information, contact Regina Langton, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, at 703/305-7161 or langston.regina@epa.gov.

Tribal Solid Waste

Tribal Association on Solid Waste & Emergency Response (TASWER) is a new organization with offices at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036-5504. Its mission is to recognize and advocate for the sovereign relationship between all federally recognized tribal governments and the United States government, to be pro-actively involved in the national decision making and regulatory processes, ensuring participation by tribes on an equal level and as decision-makers on all solid waste and emergency response issues. TASWER membership is open to all federally recognized tribes in the United States. TASWER is seeking a staff of qualified individuals with a four year degree and one to three years of experience. Knowledge of federal regulations and grant compliance is preferred, together with knowledge of and commitment to tribal sovereignty. The Executive director is Jeff Tomhave, at 202/331-8084.

Training Resource Catalog

More than 100 helpful training resources are detailed in the new *Environmental Training Resources Catalog for Small Communities* now available from the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities

(NETCSC).

The new 24-page catalog provides detailed descriptions of the current training packages, training aids, and training-related information available from NETCSC. Topic areas include training packages, NETCSC database searches, environmental management, drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, training and adult education.

Information also is provided on the organization that developed the resource, year of publication, number of pages, type of product, item number and price for each resource.

To request a free copy of the Environmental Training Resources Catalog for Small Communities, call NETCSC at 800/624-8301

RCRA Manual

This Manual (EPA530-R-98-004) is a valuable resource for anyone working on solid and hazardous waste program management and/or underground storage tank programs. Call 800/424-9346 or: <http://www.epa.gov.ncepihom/orderpub.html>.

Septage Treatment Guide

The Guide to Septage Treatment and Disposal is a 70-page guide designed to present practical information on the handling, treatment, and disposal of septage. It provides detailed engineering design information as well as graphs, tables, and illustrations. It has separate sections for administrators, inspectors, haulers, facility managers and operators. It includes references, state and regional Septage Coordinators, and examples of local permits for septage disposal. Item #WWBKGN58 is free. Contact: National Small Flows Clearinghouse, West Virginia University, P. O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064, or call 800/624-8301 or: nsfc_order@mail.edu.

Idaho

The Nez Perce Tribe recently submitted their 1998 Unified Watershed assessment and Watershed Restoration Priorities document to EPA. The assessment categorizes watersheds, sets out priorities for watershed restoration, serves as a guide for resources allocation, and facilitates

intergovernmental cooperation.

On October 20, 1999, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes submitted a Treatment-as-a-State application for certain air quality programs under the federal Clean Air Act to EPA Region 10. The tribes have specifically requested Treatment-as-a State for section 105, 106, 107, and 505 of the Clean Air Act.

Oregon

Your tribal representative on the National Biosolids Partnerships Steering Committee, (Chris Gannon Warm Springs Tribe), is pleased to announce that OSU Extension has received a national award from EPA for its' voluntary training program and support of beneficial recycling of biosolids.

EPA gave OSU Extension Service and the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies a joint award at the 72nd annual Water Environment Federation Conference.

EPA created a special category in its "Beneficial Use of Biosolids" Awards program to recognize a voluntary training program for biosolids recyclers in Oregon, and a series of training modules on how to use biosolids.

In the OSU-sponsored training program recognized by the EPA participants receive training in biosolids processing technologies, safe transportation practices and appropriate rates of application. They also receive training in how to select sites for land application, sample and test soil, and manage buffer zones near highways, wells, lakes and streams.

Washington

Ross Davis, Senior Technician, Air Quality Program, Chehalis Tribe died on Nov 3rd. The Chehalis Tribe conducted a memorial in his honor on Nov 6th. Ross was involved in several other programs such as the Tribal Fish Committee and also was an active member of the Washington State cooperative extension program. He was involved in the newly initiated Tribal Air Network (TAN), a consortium of tribes having active air quality

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programs.

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